

CLAIMS

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A dividing element for use with a split-tip catheter, comprising a body having a proximal end and a distal end, said body comprising a first opening and a second opening spaced apart from one another by a distance sufficient to ensure that an inner surface of a first tip section is separated from an inner surface of a second tip section when said body is positioned therebetween.

2. The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said first tip section has a length less than a length of said second tip section, and wherein said distance is greater than or equal to the length of said first tip section.

3. The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein a tension is created between said first and second openings and the respective tip section inserted therethrough.

4. The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said distal end is configured for attachment to a packaging tray.

5. The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein a distance between said first opening and said proximal end is less than a distance between said second opening and said distal end.

6. The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said first and second openings comprise slits.

7. The dividing element according to claim 6, wherein said slits are in the shape of an "X".

8. The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said body has a length in the range of approximately 1 inch to 20 inches.

9. The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said body is comprised of polyethylene.

10. The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said body further comprises a weakened area between said first and second openings.

11. The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said body further comprises a weakened area between at least one of said openings and an edge of said body.

12. In combination a split-tip catheter and a dividing element, said dividing element comprising a body having a proximal end and a distal end, said body comprising a first opening and a second opening spaced apart from one another by a distance sufficient to ensure that an inner surface of a first tip section is separated from an inner surface of a second tip section when said body is positioned therebetween.